

**Hurricane Harvey Response 2017
Community Liaison (CL) Report**

TO: Janetta Coats

FROM: Matthew Ohl and Phillip Ofosu

SUBJECT: Outreach Effort

COUNTY: Wharton

DATE: 9/11/2017

Due: Daily 4:00 pm

SUMMARY:

We drove to Wharton County this morning and found widespread flooding damage. Most homes have large debris piles at the street.

We met with the Emergency Management Coordinator, City Manager, Assistant to City Manager, City Secretary, finance official, and facilities Manager. They were very happy to receive the fact sheets and requested more. They offered to place fact sheets on their website and reproduce paper copies for their residents. We sent electronic copies when we were back at the lab.

The city would appreciate help with locating cleaning supplies. They have searched outside the area and even out of state. They could also use laborers to help with the cleanup. They relayed that we should also contact the Emergency Management Official for the County and schools. We arranged a meeting with the County for Tuesday, 9/12 at 10:00 am with the county.

We met with the maintenance supervisor for the Wharton County Junior College. The college was not impacted by the flooding, but the high school nearby was. We left message for the school superintendent and maintenance official to see if they need assistance such as lab chemicals in school labs.

The city water supply maintained pressure during the flooding and wasn't impacted.

They have an approved debris staging area and will begin debris removal today. Sorting of debris isn't clear. Schools will be opening starting today.

They will be distributing 1500 water sample kits to rural residents on private wells.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Not at this time

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Large mixed debris piles are located in front of homes. It appears that the piles have not been sorted to remove potential household hazardous waste, but waste containers were not visible from the road.